



Nov. 13, 2013

House Committee on Education
The Honorable Lisa Lyons Posthumus
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Lyons and distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the more than 88,000 activists of Americans for Prosperity-Michigan, I am writing in strong support of HB 5112. This bill would create a more transparent A-F grading system for evaluating school performance, which in turn would bring greater accountability to our public education system.

AFP-Michigan has long supported education reforms that seek to enhance academic proficiency and student growth through greater competition and more transparency. HB 5112 is no exception.

Not only will the A-F grading system provide more meaningful information to parents, taxpayers and policymakers, but it also includes consequences for consistently failing schools. Schools earning an "F" grade would either be closed or included in the State Reform District.

Both of Michigan's neighbors to the South—Indiana and Ohio—have adopted this more transparent system for evaluating school performance. It is easy to see why. Michigan's current school accountability system, known as the "Top to Bottom Ranking," uses more than 250 data points and is most likely unintelligible to some of the most important stakeholders in our education system—parents and taxpayers.

For these reasons and more, we urge careful consideration and ultimately your support for HB 5112.

Sincerely,

Scott Hagerstrom
State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Michigan